

Monteau Rope Tow Committee

April 17, 2018 (#2)

Call to Order: 6pm

Present: Mike Roberts, Francine Bowman, Antonio Houde, Mary Houde, Mike Bonanno, Polly Bonanno, Wini Matteson (Swiftwater Way Station), Zach Smith.

Updates:

Francine and Dianne have been working on a grant that is in the works. We are applying for 30k. Trying to meet the application deadline of April 30th. Commissioners need it first to review / approve

James Roy is working on a quote for engineering, equipment, and installation.

Mary asks if we are using old tow parts that we already have. Quote is for new equipment. Mt Lakes now can accept unanticipated funds.

There is a (leaking) well halfway up the hill, and it will be fixed by Don Drew.

The well is causing lots of mud and it needs to be diverted. This will be of no cost to our project.

Brad Farr volunteered to get telephone poles for the hill. He has been contacted and he is working on a quote for that right now, which will be submitted to grant application and part of phase 1.

Pauline asks if we have leads on other grants. Francine: not at the moment. To apply for this grant, Mt lakes district needs to be the applicant. We need to have a business plan. There will be other grant research.

Mike Bonanno asks who is writing the business plan. The committee is working on all aspects. Mike: We should contact Bob Geiger? (has involvement with local airport) Reach out to him in regards to a business plan for ideas and suggestions. He may have good contacts for pledges.

Mike: Phase 1 work... Plan all the work needed to become functional. ie. Clearing the trees, getting the rope, installation of structures, etc... We need to outline details for the operation and itemize the costs. Then we present to commissioners and get a thumbs up or a thumbs down.

There are ditches on the hill that need to be fixed as well. Include this in the business and the fees needed?

Wini asks about insurance? What does the state require for a rope tow?

Francine: Inspections will be part of James Roy's quote. Mike shared a tentative cost of 6k-10k

Dave Harkless has offered his help and his advice from Mt. Eustis.

Wini: Can we use Dave's (Eustis) plan as a guideline for ours?

Wini suggested contacting SCORE (Service Core of Retired Executives)

Plan needs to include an establishment of funds. Consider an outside source?

Francine: Using an outside source as one of our options... Many people seem to be against outsourcing.

Polly B.: Opening up to HCMS, WES and ski students at Woodsville High School. If done, Walmart will give to any organization that helps kids.

People may think that if they are paying for Monteau that they can also come to the beach in the summer whenever they like? Francine: I don't think that will be an issue at this point, but we can revisit this later.

The Haverhill town manager (Jo Lacalaide) has also expressed interest in this project around the community.

Mike: Each element of this plan will have a breakdown for cost. There will be a timeline. The goal to open this upcoming winter.

List of resources for the recommended option (Local... not outsourcing)

Official Committee (and attendees) prefer to have the hill locally run, and not outsourcing.

Discussion about how many people we will need running the rope tow. There is a gate at the top going to the killswitch. A killswitch is needed for safety requirements. We need to decide how many paid employees we need for our business plan. Not to rely solely on volunteers.

There are benefits to both options of electrical and gas powered motor, should be considered in our options.

Mary: Electric motor still on the top of Monteau... Can we refurbish and not create more new expenses?

Corinth does not use ski patrol (Mike)

Ask Eustis about ski patrol. We need a sign stating that there is no ski patrol at the Mt.

Emergency plan needs to be developed. We need to present this to the board.

Mike Bonanno volunteered to do "safety operations" research.

Mike: Corinth does "groom" their hill. Discussion followed about needing a commercial groomer, Francine will contact the large ski mountains to ask about used equipment. (Loon, Cannon etc.)

Discussion of landowner abutting the rope tow property (Moulton) and if he would allow access to the hill via his property for possible grooming.

Antonio: Will there be strange liabilities if we open up the snowmobile trails to access the hill for grooming?

Possibly. Zach Smith will contact someone he knows for information on grooming.

Volunteers vs paid employees

Seasonal employees? : Mike: 3 part time equals 1 full time.

Hours of operation? Weekends and holidays? Snow days? Vacations? Possibly 1 or 2 days a week?

Committee thinks the above hours of operation are enough. We should contact Josh Steenburgh for his thoughts on the WHS ski team's involvement.

What does Eustis charge? When is Eustis open? We will direct these questions to Dave Harkless, Francine will gather a list of questions and get in touch with Camila, Scott and Dave

Mike: Do not pick a number for fundraising goal right now. First a cost analysis.

Contact Coventry Log Homes for shed material donations? Francine will write a letter to possible sponsors describing our project and send to our email list so that there is a form letter in hand to present by our community members who are willing to ask people and local business for pledges.

Zach Smith will contact Coventry Log Homes.

Discussion on the existing top shed at Monteau: It needs to be removed/ torn down. Are we forming a 501c? Not at this time.

Francine: Haverhill Recreation seems to be ready to advertise and help when we are ready. Fundraising ideas: Scott Rutherford (Little Grille) helped Mt. Eustis a lot possible Pig Roast at Lodge? Business plan... Mt. Eustis and SCORE

Wini to contact SCORE for free help with our business plan possibly

We can seek "pledges" but no donations yet.

Francine: We need to hire a tree service for the clearing of trees rather than volunteers. Brad Farr is asking local tree experts for quotes.

Who would say what trees have to go? It is a straight line from the cement block to the top shed?

Mike Bonanno to contact ASPLUNDH for quotes on tree cutting.

Define whether or not the river is wetlands. This needs to happen, Francine thinks it may be included in James Roy's submittal of his quote.

Thursday, May 24 for next meeting (#3) Francine will contact Kristi to see if we can meet in the downstairs of the lodge.

Meeting adjourned: 7:20

